

Message Text

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SUBJECT:

1. THREE KATHMANDU DAILIES HAVE RECENTLY COMMENTED ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. "HIMALI BELA", DECEMBER 15 NOTES: "IT SHOULD BE CLEAR TO SYRIA THAT SADAT'S SPEECH TO KNESSET WAS A TOTAL REAFFIRMATION, AND NOT BETRAYAL, OF THE ARAB POSITION. TIME AND AGAIN SADAT HAS RULED OUT ANY POSSIBILITY OF NEGOTIATING A SEPARATE PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL. THE ARAB WORLD, AT LEAST THOSE MODERATE AND SENSIBLE STATES, MUST REALIZE THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT ON THEM, AND AS THE STATUS QUO PREVAILS THEY ARE GOING TO BECOME MORE INDEBTED TO FOREIGN POWERS; THAT IS, THEIR OPTIONS TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY WILL BECOME SO LIMITED THAT THEY WILL BECOME MERE INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN INTERESTS... ISRAEL HAS SO MUCH TO GIVE. ANY INTRANSIGENCE ON ITS PART IS NOT GOING TO HELP THE CAIRO TALKS AND WILL ONLY STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF ANTI-SADAT FORCES... ISRAEL SHOULD GIVE SUFFICIENT CONCESSION NOT ONLY TO PROVE THAT NEGOTIATING WITH IT DIRECTLY WILL YIELD RESULTS, BUT ALSO TO DISPLAY ITS READINESS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH SOME OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AT STAKE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE VENUE HAPPENS TO BE CAIRO, BUT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES IT IS ARAB-ISRAEL TALKS."

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2. DECEMBER 19 "THE MOTHERLAND" EDITORIALIZES: "THE ARAB-ISRAELI DIALOGUE THAT WAS STARTED BY PRESIDENT SADAT SHOULD BE CONTINUED IN SEARCH OF PEACE. THE HANGER IS SUCH THAT ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN PEACE OUGHT NOT TO FORGET THAT SUCH AN EVENTUALITY WOULD INEVITABLY LEAD THE MIDDLE EAST TO ANOTHER WAR. THEREFORE, IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PARTIES CONCERNED, THE CAIRO CONFERENCE SHOULD BE ACTIVELY SUPPORTED, AND LET

PETTY SUSPICIONS NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO ITS SUCCESS."

3. IN DECEMBER 21 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "ENCOURAGING PEACE STEPS," SEMI-OFFICIAL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY "THE RISING NEPAL" SAID: "ALTHOUGH AT THIS STAGE NOT EVERYTHING THAT IS INVOLVED IN THE REACHING OF A SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN THRASHED OUT COMPLETELY AND SEVERAL KEY QUESTIONS...REMAIN UNRESOLVED...HOPEFULLY ALL THESE UNRESOLVED ISSUES WOULD BE SETTLED IN THE COMING WEEKS SO THAT THE PROPOSED GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE COULD TAKE PLACE WITH CERTAIN GUARANTEED CHANCES OF SUCCESS." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT "WHAT IS ENCOURAGING IS THAT ISRAEL HAS REPORTEDLY SHOWN A GENUINE DESIRE FOR COMING TO PEACE WITH THE ARABS...AS EVENTS ARE MOVING NOW THERE IS SOME GROUND TO EXPECT THAT THE GAMBLE PRESIDENT SADAT HAD TAKEN BY SEEKING DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAELI LEADERS MAY BE PAYING OFF IN THE ELUSIVE SPEECH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST."
STANLEY

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